

FREEMAN HONORS



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thomas F. Freeman Honors College

Newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University

Spring/Summer 2020

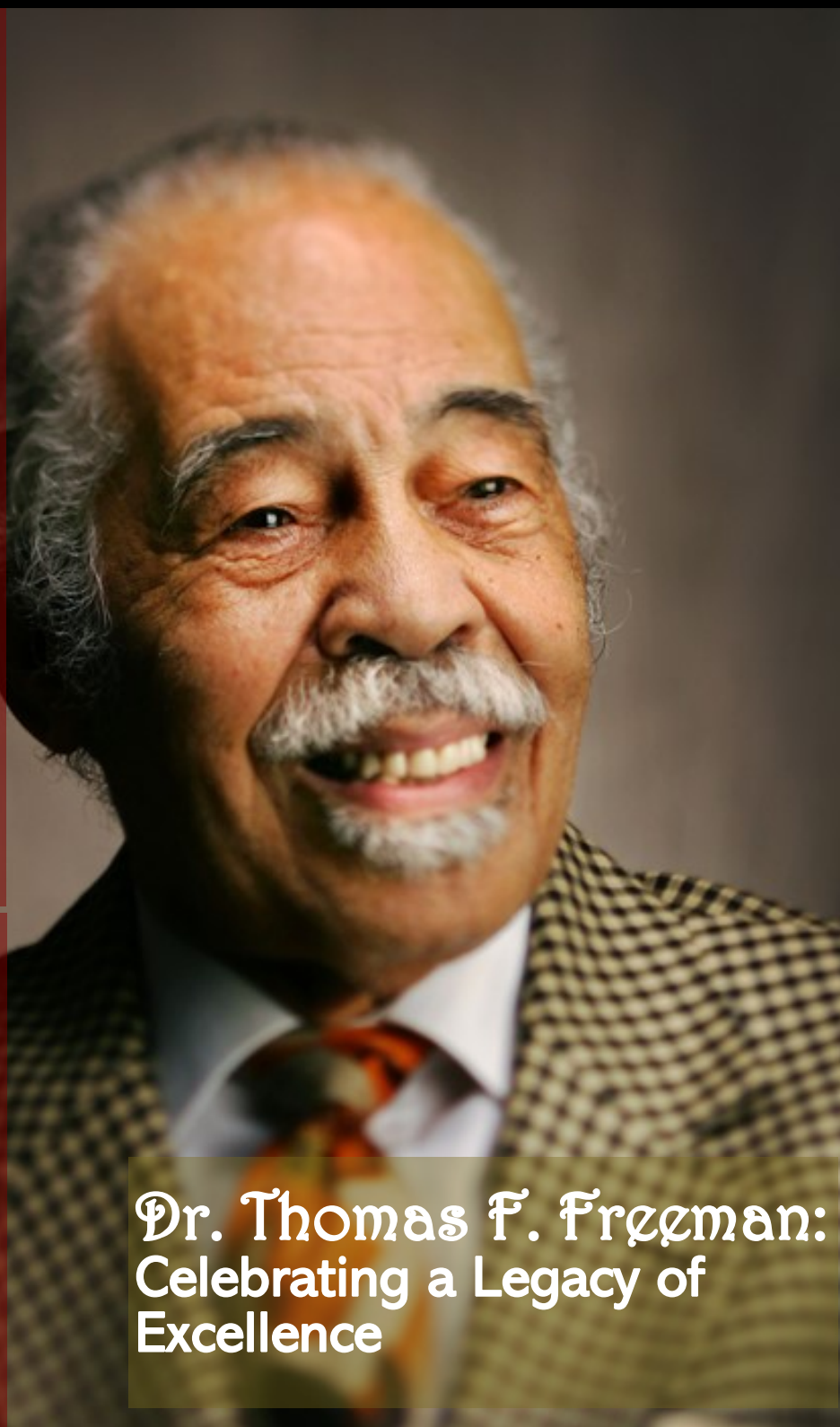
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About This Edition

Award winning *Freeman Honors*, is the bi-annual newsletter of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College at Texas Southern University. It connects the students, faculty and office personnel of the College with its many benefactors and partners in education within the University.

The College anticipates that this connection will reflect and cultivate the relationships in a family whose members are dedicated to maximizing the preparation of College students for service as citizens and as leaders in a global society.



**Dr. Thomas F. Freeman:
Celebrating a Legacy of
Excellence**

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Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman: 1919-2020

In 2009, when the Frederick Douglass Honors Institute became the Honors College, Texas Southern University (TSU) named it after **Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman**. Distinguished Professor of Forensics and legendary debate coach, Dr. Freeman led the University's award-winning Debate Team to scores of regional, national and international competitions. Dr. Freeman instructed such iconic national and global figures as **Representative Barbara Jordan** and **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** and advised Academy Award winner **Denzel Washington** in the movie, *The Great Debaters*. Washington tapped into the more than 60 years of service and success that made Dr. Freeman an icon of TSU, the African American community, the United States, and the world.



Dr. Freeman passed away on June 6, 2020, just a few weeks shy of his 101st birthday. The person and the legacy of Dr. Freeman continues to inspire scholars in the Honors College, students in the University, and leaders in the nation and the world.

“What we do, we do well. What we don’t do well, we don’t do at all.”

– **Dr. Thomas Freeman**

The Honors College dedicates this issue of *Freeman Honors* to him.

Dean’s Message

Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman was truly the heart and soul of the Honors College from its inception in 2009 to his passing in 2020. This issue of *Freeman Honors* is our tribute to his outstanding service to the college. Freeman Scholars, faculty, staff and administrators who served the College, have written personal expressions that reveal how they were inspired by knowing this icon. Also, in this issue is a review of the Spring 2020 semester. Though the school switched to online instruction in March, the Honors College juniors still managed to complete their course augmentation proposal presentations and the seniors completed their thesis presentations on Blackboard Collaborate Ultra before the Honors College faculty. The Freeman Scholars flourished through challenging circumstances and we are truly proud of their accomplishments.



Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard

Please enjoy reading this issue of *Freeman Honors*.

Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard

“The Honors College Formula:

Effective Leadership + Supportive Honors Faculty/Staff = Scholar Success!”

A Tribute to Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman

Reflections from Freeman Scholars

“I never met Dr. Freeman but when I first read through the Honors College brochure, I saw his contributions and the great legacy he left behind for others to follow. It's also amazing how he has won so many awards for being active in the Houston community and his commitment to enhance the life of African American students. Seeing his achievements, makes me feel like I am capable of achieving my goals as well and allows me to realize that I can accomplish everything I want if I just put my mind to it. Being a Freeman Scholar is a rewarding experience because it will help me gain critical thinking skills to do better in my career, instill leadership qualities, and expand my knowledge.”

Anoosh Arshad
Freshman Scholar

“Dr. Freeman truly made an impact on my life. The powerful and stylistic sway of his voice will always make my heart smile. I visited him in his office and we talked for hours... about his life, his career and purpose, and God. ‘Nothing is by happenstance’ he said, attributing his success to God. Speaking to him changed my life for the better. He always poured out so much wisdom. His presence was powerful, his life was purposeful, and his legacy is iconic! Dr. Freeman will always be in my heart and I miss him dearly.”

Mariah Campbell
Freeman Scholar, 2020-2021 Miss Junior

“The things I learned being on the debate team under Dr. Freeman’s guidance, are irreplaceable. It was more than debate with him. It was about learning how to have a voice; learning how to use your voice; and learning how to make sure your voice is heard.”

Kiara Chatman
Senior Freeman Scholar, 2019-2020 Miss Junior

“Dr. Freeman has inspired me since the very first day I joined the Honors College. Every time he would speak, whether during an induction ceremony or the Frederick Douglass Lecture Series, I gained extra motivation to strive to be the best student and person I could be on campus. Being a Freeman Scholar is a blessing and means a lot to me. As a Freeman Scholar I feel compelled to demonstrate excellence in all facets of my life.”

Clinton Emeh
Senior Freeman Scholar, 2019-2020 Mister Honors College

“I remember when I met Dr. Freeman, in the summer of 2014 (as a rising freshman in high school). On that day, his students performed many poems and acts which they had practiced several times before. By the way he talked to my class and from how well his students performed, I could tell that Dr. Freeman was a very influential person.”

Jamel Jolivet
Sophomore Freeman Scholar

A Tribute to Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman

Reflections from Freeman Scholars

“Dr. Freeman was a pillar in the TSU community. His death not only marked the end of his life but the end of an era at Texas Southern. I am grateful to have known and had conversations with such a man. His impact goes far beyond the confines of Scott and Ennis; his presence was felt globally and for that he was great. May he rest in peace and here’s to a life dedicated to molding the minds of our future generations.”

B.J. McCaskill

Senior Freeman Scholar, 2019-2020 Mr. Junior

“I stand on the shoulders of Dr. Freeman. I am motivated to be my best self knowing I am following his legacy. I am proud to be a Freeman Scholar and it means I am paving the way and setting an example for young people. Thank you, Dr. Freeman!”

JoirDon Karl Nicholas

Senior, Freeman Scholar

“One of the reasons I wanted to become a part of the Honors College was because I was inspired by Dr. Freeman's accomplishments. He is someone I look up to, who made his mark on the sands of time. Being a Freeman Scholar means I am always willing to put my best foot forward, and I will do my best to carry forward Dr Freeman's mighty legacy.”

Omokhuwele Omoru

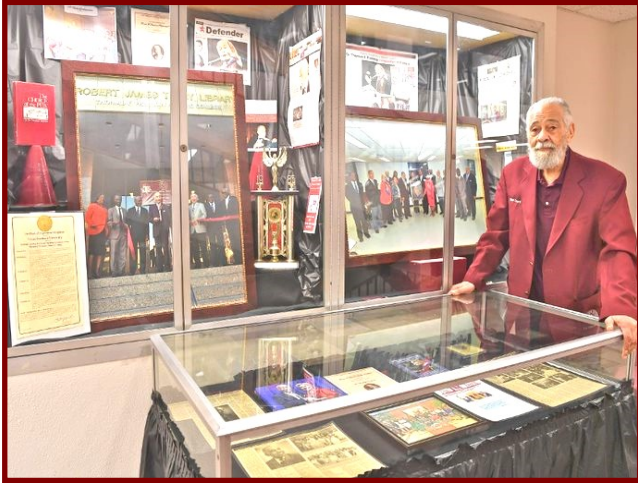
Freshman Freeman Scholar

“Dr. Freeman has both inspired and motivated me through so much. Personally working with him, you saw so much history, character, and passion. A conversation with him would have anyone ready to conquer the world. Being a Freeman Scholar means the world to me. One of Dr. Freeman’s famous quotes as we know it on the debate team, “*what we do, we do well, what we don’t do well, we don’t do at all*” is something I take to heart. I feel like I am a part of history and I am helping to write a new chapter, the best chapter.”

Igor Vouffo

Freeman Scholar, 2020-2021 Mister Junior

A Tribute to Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman



*Dr. Freeman standing next to the Freeman Exhibit assembled in honor of his 100th birthday, by Dean Jemison Pollard and Library Staff
Ms. Conchetta Fields in the Robert J. Terry Library*



*L to r: Dr. Freeman, Mrs. Sarah Haiying Li, Heartman Collection Archivist, and Mrs. Freeman
Retirement of the Dr. Thomas F. Freeman Papers and Books, Summer 2019*



Dr. and Mrs. Freeman (seated) with Freeman Scholars and members of the TSU Debate Team at Dr. Freeman's 100th birthday celebration hosted by the Honors College



Dr. Freeman with Dean Jemison Pollard, at his 100th Birthday Celebration in the TSU Cafeteria, June 2019

In the Beginning: Reflections from Dr. Sunny Ohia (Provost, 2008-2014)

“I was aware of **Dr. Thomas F. Freeman’s** role as Denzel Washington’s coach in the movie, *The Great Debaters*, before my arrival on TSU’s campus as Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs in September 2008.

During my first meeting with **Dr. Freeman** (in his capacity as a senior academic leader on campus), I was very impressed by his personality and the stories he told me about the successes of the Texas Southern University Debate Team over the years. I was also enamored by his passion for students and the learning environment. As he left my office, I began thinking of a higher visible leadership position on campus for this legendary educator. Incidentally, during my preparation for interview for the provost position, I was aware of the presence of an Honors Program on campus. Indeed, I had discussed the idea of elevating the Honors Program to a full-fledged academic college with the Search Committee (if offered the position of chief academic officer). In my next meeting with then President of the University, **John Rudley**, I discussed the outcome of my meeting with Dr. Freeman and broached the idea of appointing him as an interim dean of a new Honors College. My thought at that time was that we needed individuals such as Dr. Freeman in a leadership position on campus.



Dr. Sunny E. Ohia

By the end of our conversation that morning, we both agreed that our administration will name the new Honors College in honor of Dr. Freeman as a recognition for his lifetime contributions to the Debate Team and his support of academic excellence on campus.

You can imagine my joy in breaking the news to Dr. Freeman during my next meeting with him! He was silent for a while and had tears in his eyes as he asked me to convey his gratitude and appreciation to **President Rudley** for the opportunity to immortalize his name. I then informed him that the president and I would like him to also serve as an interim dean for the new college as we embark on a nation-wide search for a dean.

As I reminisce about my tenure as a former Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs at TSU, the creation of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College would rank as one of the most significant accomplishments of our administration. I am glad that we were able to recognize Dr. Freeman’s accomplishments and immortalized his name while he was still living with us. While very few eminent academic leaders in this world ever live to serve as the first dean of a college named after them, the late Dr. Thomas F. Freeman more than deserved this recognition for his selfless contribution to education and the nurturing of several thousands of students in the Debate Team and also in the classroom as a distinguished professor. He was very active as a tenured and later, as a retired emeritus professor until his departure from mother earth. I conclude this piece by stating that he was my academic idol and a mentor that I would always strive to emulate in my remaining days in the professoriate.”

– **Dr. Sunny E. Ohia**
Professor, College of Pharmacy and
Health Sciences

Tribute from Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts (Interim Associate Dean, 2009-2011)

“When I came to TSU as a freshman in 1968 and I joined the Debate Team, I had no prior knowledge of **Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman**, but I knew immediately, upon meeting him, that this man would be a very influential person in my life. At that time, I had no idea, the extent of that influence.

The experiences he afforded me as a member of the TSU Debate Team, (educationally, socially and spiritually), are second to no other experiences in my life. He was the scholar, always encouraging us to aim high. He was the teacher, the coach, sharing his knowledge so that we might learn.

He was the provider, sharing his earnings with a lot of students who had few if any financial resources. He was the example and the answer and he would never betray you. He was our surrogate father.

And so, when I returned to Houston in 1974 after completing graduate studies at Howard University and Dr. Freeman asked me to serve as assistant Debate Coach because of his demanding responsibilities as Director of the Weekend College, I knew that I had no choice. I had to give back because I had gained so much.

And so, my growth continued. I saw Dr. Freeman, “Doc” as we affectionately called him, patiently helping students in 2020 prior to COVID 19, just as he did when I was a student in 1968, and just as he did in 1949, when he organized the team, encouraging, supportive and believing in them.

For 70 years, Dr. Freeman served as a beacon of inspiration by his example of excellence throughout his career. He epitomized Texas Southern University’s core values: excellence, leadership, service and truth. He lived a life so full of accomplishments that few can match the honor and respect associated with his name.

As one of many, in whom he evoked the keenest admiration and respect, I take this opportunity to let the world know how much I appreciated him for being such a strong force in my own growth and development through his exceptional taste, extraordinary judgement and creativity and remarkable foresight.

My admiration and love for him was boundless and I miss him immeasurably.”



*Dr. Freeman with Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts
February 2020*

– **Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts**
Director, Thomas F. Freeman Center for
Forensic Excellence
Director, TSU Debate Team
Adjunct Professor, Department of Social
Work

Tribute from Former Deans

Dr. Humphrey Regis (Dean, 2011-2014)

“In the development of my impressions of **Dr. Thomas F. Freeman**, the first insights came from my knowledge of his “students,” **Rep. Barbara Jordan**, civil rights leader **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, and award-winning actor **Denzel Washington**. In each case, I sensed a “power” in “oratory” for which there seems to be a common explanation – they all were “students” or “understudies” of Dr. Freeman. His “influence” on them left its mark in their measured, engaging, and arresting delivery.

In my elaboration of the academic program in the new Thomas F. Freeman Honors College shortly after 2010, I also was under the “influence” of Dr. Freeman. His emphasis on the integration of knowledge of various parts of the world, and his use and delivery of language, were reflected in the “Interdisciplinarity,” “Local/National/Global context” and “Ethics/Philosophy in the Age of the Global” themes in the program. Thus, Dr. Freeman is the guiding light for the Honors College, both because of his prominence and eminence and because of his ideas, his life, his being – because of his essence.”



Dr. Humphrey Regis

*Professor, Mass Communications
School of Communication*

Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory (Interim Dean, 2014-2017)

“**Dr. Thomas F. Freeman** developed close, positive, enduring relationships with many people during his long, fruitful life. I am but one soul blessed to have benefited from his passion for excellence and his compassion for all fortunate enough to embrace him. I met him in the 1990's in Colorado where he was leading where he was leading a powerful workshop to a group of future great debaters. I knew of his reputation as debate coach with a world-wide winning streak. We connected then and remained admirers of each other. His big infectious smile and his robust voice won me over irrevocably.

When **President John Rudley** and **Provost Sunny Ohia** took steps to elevate the Honors Program to an Honors College in 2008, the TSU community rejoiced. A recent hire to TSU in 2009, I was able to observe Dr. Freeman work tirelessly to build a strong, viable Honors College. What I admired most about his work as Founding Dean, was his success at researching scholarship levels offered at aspirational universities, and then persuading Drs. Rudley and Ohia to approve scholarship levels that exceeded those. He believed that truly outstanding students—namely those with highly competitive standardized scores, grade point averages, and service records—could be recruited to TSU's Honors College. His evidence-based research led to his receiving approval to set the Honors College on its course to becoming a vibrant, essential academic unit. As interim dean from 2014-2017, I continued to connect with Dr. Freeman and relied upon him to help elicit support from the administration as well as Honors alumni and corporate donors to raise funds for the College. I deeply admired his focused high energy, his insistence upon excellence, his demand for innovation, and his belief that all things are possible if we, using all the smarts we can muster, work hard and pray even harder.”



Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory

*Distinguished Professor, Theatre
Department of Visual &
Performing Arts*

A Tribute to Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman: Reflections from Faculty and Alumni

“**Dr. Thomas F. Freeman** exists in my mind on the Mount Rushmore of men and women who have made an indelible impression on my life. Traveling across this country and in fact the globe with “Doc,” transformed my understanding of the world. Through his guidance, I understood how interconnected we really are, how small our planet and equally fascinated humanity truly are. If I could just master the art of communication, both in the spoken word and non-verbal cues, I could unlock any door. He instilled in me the confidence to walk into any room, with any race, creed, regardless of person or status, and be their equal in all ways that mattered. Dr. Freeman understood and exemplified the meaning of “black excellence” before **Jay-Z** made the phrase fashionable. He demanded nothing less from us, from me. The lessons and wisdom Dr. Freeman imparted in my life as well as my love and admiration for him as a teacher, father-figure and friend run marrow deep. They say you don’t appreciate a legend until they are gone, but I can say that anyone who was around Dr. Freeman and heard him speak, understood they were in the presence of a giant. I thank God for allowing Dr. Freeman to share his gift with us and thank him for being so generous with it.”

– **Mr. Rodney Cox**

Director of Pharmacy Services
Memorial Hermann
Memorial City Medical Center
Alumnus and Honors College Advisory Board

“At my graduation, Saturday, August 8, 2009, **Dr. Freeman** congratulated me, and he said, “Come see me Monday morning.” When I met with him on that Monday, we discussed the newly formed Thomas F. Freeman Honors College and he invited me to serve as the Interim Director of Student Services, and later, Assistant Dean for Student Services. That was such an honor for me. I first met Dr. Freeman during my undergraduate studies when he was the Faculty Advisor for Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. As my Honors Advisor, Dr. Freeman assigned a topic. I thought that he was so mean when he required me to rewrite. He was finally pleased after the third attempt, but I learned that he required my very best. As I got to know Dr. Freeman, I realized that he was not “mean,” but there were expectations for an Honor Student. He saw the potential within us that we so often do not see in ourselves. And so those formative experiences with Dr. Freeman prepped me for the days in which I would serve under his leadership in the newly formed Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. Dr. Freeman will forever hold a special place in my heart. His warmth of personality, his robust laughter, his genuine care and compassion for the wellbeing of others, will always be remembered. Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman left a legacy of excellence and an enduring example to follow your quest for learning that is without replication. Thank you, Dr. Freeman.

– **Dr. Candy Ratliff**

Interim Assistant Dean for Student
Services, 2009-2014
Chairperson, Department of Counseling

“Dr. Freeman said, the key to being a great debater is to “have a devotion to the truth and the facts.” Today, I think we need this quote more than ever.”

– **Dr. Iris Lancaster**

Professor and Interim Chair,
Department of English
Honors Faculty Fellow

At the TSU Memorial

Reflections from Dean Jemison Pollard

“As Dean of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, I attended the Homegoing of **Dr. Thomas F. Freeman** on June 16, 2020, at the Texas Southern University Health and Physical Education Arena. There were so many other mourners (relatives, associates, and friends) from different worldly venues to celebrate the Homegoing of Dr. Freeman. I listened attentively to program presenters as someone praised him for former “great successes,” another for previous “exceptional achievements,” and yet another for former “noble advancements.” My role on the program was to acknowledge the many tributes and resolutions received. All presenters agreed that this Centenarian was a “one-of-a-kind man” – a legendary educator, administrator, debate coach and a gifted speaker and preacher.



Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard

All the sublime rhetorical praises awakened in me another way of thinking about Dr. Freeman. I remembered the many gleeful moments I spent with him. I can clearly see Dr. Freeman’s waving to get my attention from a far distance across the TSU campus. Throughout my career at TSU, I frequently sought out Dr. Freeman for advice. I came to the university knowing about Dr. Freeman because he and my dad were schoolmates at Virginia Union University and Seminary. In 2017, TSU convened a Search Committee given the task to select a dean. I had served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Honors College from 2011 to 2015. I asked Dr. Freeman if he thought I should apply. Before he answered, Freeman’s iconic pleasant smile transformed into a perplexing expression. He said, “You already know what I think, Dianne. You just want me to vocalize what I think.” I told him immediately that I respected his opinion. He reared back again in his cushion chair and said dramatically, “Dianne! Yes, you are a ‘Man for all Seasons’” and we laughed and spent the remainder of my visit talking about my children.

Dr. Freeman never missed an opportunity to attend all activities in the College. He delivered the closing remarks on all programs. With his lead, the scholars repeated the oath and pledge at induction and graduation recognition ceremonies.

By the time I forced my attention to my fellow mourners who had not shared my diverted pleasant memories of Dr. Freeman, the eulogy was being given. At that instance, I realized again the importance of the juxtaposition of death and life. Dr. Freeman, along with his staff, had given life to the Honors College in 2009 and established its present infrastructure consisting of a comprehensive body of scholarly standards for learning that will be passed on from generation to generation in perpetuity.

Now from this moment, Freeman Scholars will only read and hear about this great man. I am certain that the scholars will carry Dr. Freeman’s banner during these “uncertain times,” resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic and city street protests that expose police brutality, and denounce corruption associated with social and economic inequality. They have been disciplined to analyze these outcries of injustices and deal subsequently with sudden and overwhelming change by identifying their personal roles in a world divided by diverse ideologies. His legacy will continue through them.

My memory of Dr. Freeman will be forever cherished.”

– **Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard**
Professor of Theatre, Department of
Visual & Performing Arts
Dean

A Tribute to Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman



Spring 2019 Graduation Recognition Ceremony

Standing (l to r): Dr. Hector Miranda, Isaac Cerda, Darlise Goodlow, Aaron Dallas, McKenzie Jones-Channel, Suzonne Goudeau, Jaida Lewis, Anish Patel, Ms. Renuka Nair, Jayla Jimerson, Divonte Lumpkin, and Mr. Shandon Neal

Seated (l to r): Dean Jemison Pollard and Dr. Thomas Freeman



Fall 2018 Graduation Recognition Ceremony

Left to right: Mr. Shandon Neal, Ms. Renuka Nair, Darryl McNary II, Oluwaseyi Odiyeye, Dr. Michon Benson, David Anderson, Ibrahim Adeyemi, Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts, and Dr. Iris Lancaster

Seated: Dr. Thomas Freeman and Dean Jemison Pollard



Fall 2017 Graduation Recognition Ceremony

Left to right: Knubian Gatlin, Temitope Gbaja, Ashtyn Duncan, Dr. Thomas Freeman, Dean Jemison Pollard, Jasmine Pitre, Lyton Ating'a, and Amiya Thomas

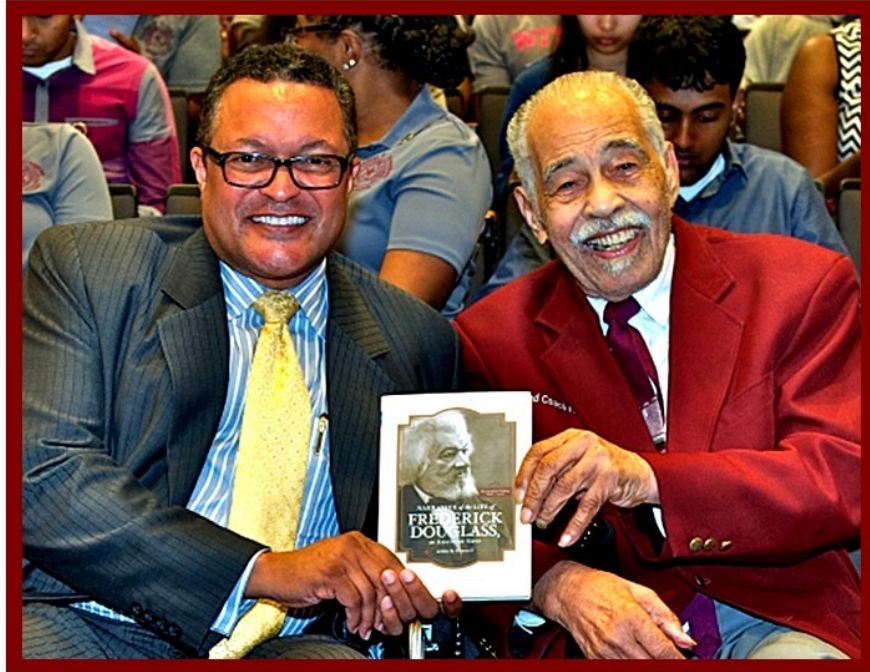


Spring 2018 Graduation Recognition Ceremony

*Back row (l to r): Dean Jemison Pollard, Enoch Culliver, Miranda Remekun, Efe Eboime and Shandon Neal
Front row (l to r): Renuka Nair, Chioma Anugwom, Marlene Garza, Kalifa Kelly, Jericho Johnson, Kapil Sapkota, and David Utaegbulam*

Seated: Dr. Kenyatta Cavil, Dr. Thomas Freeman, and Dr. Humphrey Regis

A Tribute to Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman

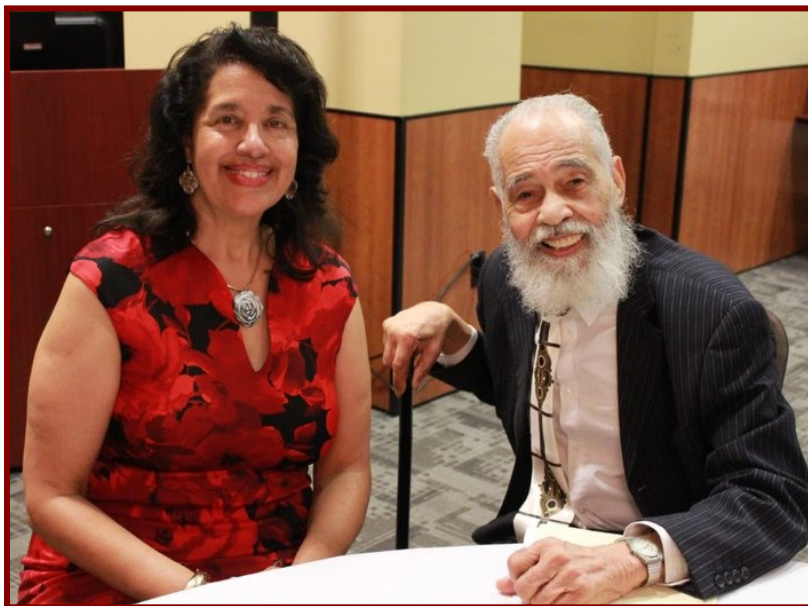


*Dr. Freeman with Frederick Douglass lecturer Mr. Kenneth B. Morris, the great, great, great grandson of Frederick Douglass and great-great grandson of Booker T. Washington
Fall 2017*

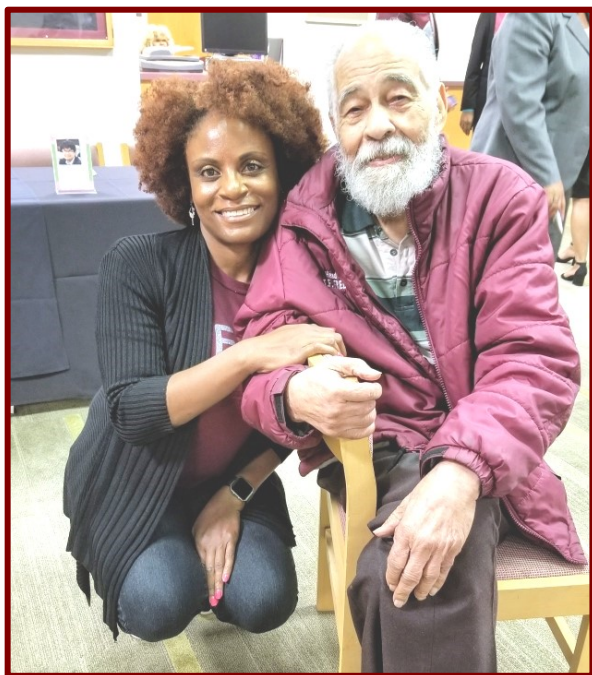


*Dr. Freeman with Frederick Douglass lecturer Dr. Marie Asher Baptiste, Founder of the Haitian Multicultural Association
Fall 2018*

A Tribute to Dr. Thomas Franklin Freeman



*Dean and Dr. Freeman at the 2018 Fall Dinner
Tiger Room in the Sterling Student Life Center*



*Dr. Freeman with Honors Faculty Fellow,
Dr. Iris Lancaster, at the 2019 Spring Graduation
Recognition Ceremony*



*Dr. Freeman with Freeman Scholar, Mariah
Campbell, at the 2018 Honors Fall Dinner*

Honors College Calendar Events: Spring 2020

Spring 2020 Opening Meeting

On Saturday, February 1, 2020, Freeman scholars met with the Honors College staff to discuss the new semester. **Dr. Hector Miranda** spoke about the Senior Thesis and handed out the guidelines and deadlines to the senior scholars. **Ms. Renuka Nair** outlined the process for the scholars to complete Honors curriculum requirements and introduced the junior scholars to the Course Augmentation Proposal (CAP) discussing examples of potential topics and projects.



Dr. Hector Miranda and senior scholars discuss the thesis



Ms. Andreaus Boise addressing scholars at the Honors College Spring 2020 Opening Meeting

Dean Jemison Pollard discussed the Spring 2020 calendar and highlighted the attendance at the two Frederick Douglass lectures. Guest speaker **Ms. Andreaus Boise** (Director of the Career & Professional Development Center), distributed the Career & Professional Development Center's career pathways and timelines for freshman, sophomore, junior and senior students. She also introduced the scholars to the center's many programs and services that are available to TSU students and reminded all to be prepared for the upcoming events such as resume workshops, Dress for Success suit and clothing giveaway, employer meet and greet sessions, as well as the Spring 2020 Career Fair. Honors College faculty member, **Prof. Dorris Robinson** (Department of Political Science) briefly addressed the scholars and spoke about tips for a successful academic year.

Freshman Induction Spring 2020



*Front row, l to r: Nora Rodriguez-Santiago, Destiny Smith, Samserai Cardenas, Lauren Bailey, Keara Dixon, Serena Enemodia, Madison Grisafi, Dexter Maryland, Judnie Michel, Merci Wilson, Nia Robinson, Taylor Stokes
Back row, l to r: Jaina Johnson, , Jamel Jolivet, Tannard Darensburg, Dan Lerma, Lauren Wells, Shaun Stevenson, Brian Martinez, Melissa Gonzalez, Jacob Hines, Jerria White, Kaia Moody and Haleigh Malveaux*

On Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Jesse H. Jones School of Business auditorium, the Honors College proudly inducted 24 freshman students into the College. Dean Jemison Pollard led the 24 freshman scholars in the Honors Induction Pledge. The new scholars followed and pledged to uphold the five Core Values of the College: Honesty, Integrity, Community, Creativity and Excellence. The freshman inductees are: **Lauren Bailey** (Biology), **Samserai Cardenas** (Interdisciplinary Studies), **Tannard Darensburg, Jr.** (Psychology), **Keara Dixon** (Political Science), **Serena Enemodia** (Biology), **Melissa Gonzalez** (Biology), **Madison Grisafi** (Electrical Engineering), **Jacob Hines** (Finance), **Jaina Johnson** (Administration of Justice), **Jamel Jolivet** (Chemistry), **Dan Lerma** (Civil Engineering), **Haleigh Malveaux** (Biology), **Brian Martinez** (Accounting), **Dexter Maryland** (Political Science), **Judnie Michel** (Pre-Pharmacy), **Kaia Moody** (Pre-Pharmacy), **Niya Robinson** (Finance), **Noralis Rodriguez-Santiago** (Biology), **Destiny Smith** (Biology), **Shaun Stevenson** (Biology), **Lauren Wells** (Pre-Pharmacy), **Jerriah White** (Chemistry), and **Merci Wilson** (Social Work). The event was well attended by families and friends of the scholars in attendance.

Fredrick Douglass Lecture Series

The Frederick Douglass Lecture Series is a required attendance event for the Honors College Scholars. Two lectures are presented each semester and each has a community and/or global focus. In Spring 2020, due to the pandemic, scholars attended one in-person lecture.

Prof. Roberta Muchangwe—February 11, 2020

Prof. Roberta Muchangwe is a Professor and Researcher in the Department of Media and Communication Studies at the University of Zambia (UNZA). As the Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence at TSU, Prof. Muchangwe plans to immerse herself in different cultural exchange activities in Houston and other parts of the USA. She shared her experience as a Fulbright Scholar and introduced the scholars to the world of opportunities open to them in the program. Prof. Muchangwe shared her journey from her undergraduate experience at UNZA leading up to her selection into the African ChangeMakers Fellowship Program, Cohort 3, 2019. She has a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Mass Communication from UNZA. She has contributed extensively to the fight against HIV and AIDS as a Communication Expert on a project that aimed at eradicating HIV and AIDS in Kenya.

Program participants were **Mr. Christopher Jones** (Senior/Entertainment Recording Industry Management), who delivered the invocation, **Miss Siete Richardson** (Senior, Entertainment Recording Industry Management) gave the occasion, and Miss **Mariah Campbell** (Junior, Journalism) introduced the speaker.

Also in the audience were, **Dr. Gregory Maddox** (Dean of the Graduate School and Director of International Programs), **Dr. Rockell Brown Burton**, (Dean of the School of Communication), **Dr. Maurice Odine** (School of Communication), **Dr. Willie Capers** (Honors College Faculty Fellow, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), **Dr. Mayur Desai** (Honors College Faculty Fellow, JHJ School of Business), and **Prof. Dorris Robinson** (Honors Faculty, Department of Political Science).



*Frederick Douglass Lecture featuring
Dr. Gary Bledsoe*

Golden Key International Honor Society: New Member Induction



Jiwan Thapa



*Kala Renae
Jones*



*Vicki Nicole
Taylor*



*Sara Wuxia
Zhang*



*Billy Jalen
McCaskill*

The TSU Chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society (GK-TSU) held its Spring New Member and Honorary Member Induction Ceremony on Thursday February 27, 2020, in the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College. The event was well attended by the new members and their family and friends. Recognized for their student-focused service to the University and their excellence in teaching and scholarship, **Dr. Michon Benson**, **Dr. Willie Capers** and **Dr. Hector Miranda** were inducted as Honorary Members. Golden Key is the world's largest collegiate honor society, dedicated to Academics, Leadership, and Service. Membership into the Society is by invitation from the national office in Atlanta, only to the top 15% of university sophomores, juniors, and seniors, as well as top-performing graduate students in all fields of study, based solely on their academic achievements. Seven scholars were officially inducted into the chapter: **Billy Jalen McCaskill**, **Ana Gonzalez**, **Kala Renae Jones**, **Sarah Sejoro**, **Vicki Nicole Taylor**, **Jiwan Thapa** and **Sara Wuxia Zhang**.

The chapter officers are: **Ms. Angela Smith**, President; **Ms. Destiny Riddle**, Vice President; **Ms. Johnea Edwards**, Secretary.

Ms. Renuka Nair and **Mr. Shandon Neal** serve as chapter advisors.





Mister and Miss Honors College, **Clinton Emeh** and **Janai Minga** served as the MC's for the event



Dean Jemison Pollard (center) with luncheon honorees



Luncheon keynote speaker, Councilwoman **Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz**



Dean Jemison Pollard with **Dr. Carolyn Evans-Shabazz**



Dr. Humphrey Regis, luncheon honoree and former dean of the Honors College

Annual Spring Luncheon in Pictures March 7, 2020



Dean Lilian Poats with luncheon honoree, **Dr. Sanders Anderson**



Honors alum and Graduate Research Assistant **Calvin Chukwuka**, with Freeman Scholar **Sarah Shirdon**



Luncheon Honorees

L to R: **Dr. Sanders Anderson** (former Director of the Frederick Douglass Honors Institute), **Mr. Mauricio Sanchez** (Supervisor of Housekeeping),

Dr. Candy Ratliff (former Assistant Dean of Student Services), **Rev. Dr. Patricia Williams** (Founder/Director of Frederick Douglass Institute), **Dr. Humphrey Regis** (former Dean), and **Mr. Rodney Cox** (Honors College Advisory Board)



Freeman Scholars **Clinton Emeh**, **Angela Smith** and **Janai Minga**



Dean Jemison Pollard with luncheon honoree **Mr. Mauricio Sanchez**



Luncheon honoree, **Dr. Candy Ratliff** with guest



Houston Community College-Honors College Director, **Mr. Dan Flores**, with **Ms. Renuka Nair**, Director of Academic & Student Services



Freeman Scholars **Mark Ddamulira** (left) and **Daniel Kuddabujja** (right) provided musical entertainment for luncheon attendees



Graduate Research Assistant **Sarah Sejoro** (left) with Freeman Scholar, **Sara Zhang** (center) and College Business Administrator, **Mr. Shandon Neal** (right)



Graduate Research Assistant **Chizara Nwakanma** (left) with luncheon honoree, **Mr. Mauricio Sanchez** and Assistant Dean, **Dr. Hector Miranda** (right)

Spring 2020 Undergraduate Research and Internships Symposium

Celebrating scholarly research and internship experiences, the symposium serves as a forum for junior level scholars to present their works that are completed in the course augmentation proposals (CAPs). The presentation topics and content are based on the scholars' chosen fields of study. Participants are given 10-15 minutes to present their topics. On April 20 and 21, 2020, the Honors College hosted its semi-annual Undergraduate Research and Internships Symposium, showcasing the interdisciplinary research and internship activities of 23 junior Honors scholars. Due to the pandemic, the symposium was held virtually via Blackboard Collaborate Ultra.

Bose Anifowose

PHAR 422/ Dr. Ndefo

"Evaluation of Clinical Trials in the Treatment of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)"

Lauren Bailey

Internship

"Central Texas Veterans Health Care System: Prosthetics and Orthotics"

Maya Davis

SER 365/ Dr. Cummings.

"Types of Hypersensitivity Reaction"

Mark Ddamulira

PHYS 252/ Dr. Vrinceanu

"Superconductivity and Quantum Pinning"

Keara Dixon

ENG 412/ Dr. Fain

"Analyzing the Correlation of Government Policies on Literacy Skills in Low-Income Communities"

Clinton Emeh

BIOL 341/ Dr. Miranda

"Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes: Etiology and Prevention"

Ronson Hawkins

THEA 334/ Dr. Jemison Pollard

"Facts About the Great Ossie Davis: Actor, Playwright, Husband, Civil Rights Activist"

Meia Holley

HIST 447/ Prof Meeks

"The Black Panther Party's Influence on America"

Merritt Johnson

CM 330/ Prof. Duncan

"The Democratic National Debate: An Internship in Production"

Keianya Joseph

MGSC 302/ Prof. Khadimally

"Operations Management: Suppliers' Selection Criteria"

Daija Lovejoy

BIOL 341/ Dr. Miranda

"Viruses: Structure, Function and Types"

Ja'Darrian Morgan

HSHA 339/ Dr. Pounds

"Health Disparities Among Vulnerable Populations"

Chukwudalu Ononenyi

BIOL 439 / Dr. Miranda

"The Importance of Vaccinology"

Noemi Perez

SOCW 347/ Dr. LaChapelle-Friday

"The Effects of the Macro and Micro-Environment on Human Behavior"

Alexis Praytor

HSHA 338/ Dr. Estill

"How to be a Financial Secretary"

Siete Richardson

ERM 450/ Dr. Kirby

"The Growing Need for Media Literacy in the 21st Century"

Destiny Riddle

PHAR 442/Dr. Uche Ndefo

"Safety and Efficacy of Pemaifibrate (K-877) in Patients with Dyslipidemia"

Camryn Roberts

MUSI 225/ Dr. Grube

"The Importance of String Methods"

Shadman Shaikh

BIOL 343/ Dr. Abdel Rahman

"The Genetic Drift Theory Effect"

Sarah Shirdon

SOC 338/ Dr. Napier

"Gender Norms Effect Around the World"

Angela Smith

FIN 301/Prof. Awosemo

"Facts about Capital Markets"

Sneha Thomas

PHAR 422/ Dr. Ndefo

"Etanercept vs Methotrexate in the Treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis"

Sara Zhang

BIOL 231/Dr. Cassimere

"Etiology of the Coronavirus"

PHYS 252/Dr. Vrinceanu

"Application of Van de Graff Generator"

SENIOR THESIS MAY 2020

The Honors College congratulates all senior scholars who successfully completed their honors thesis:

Vivian Adeoye

Degree: B.S. in Biology
Thesis Title: *Transplantation immunology and its role in mortality reduction*
Advisor: Dr. Ayodotun Sodipe

Henry Bautista

Degree: B.S. in Administration of Justice
Thesis Title: *Analyzing the Pros and Cons of Police Body Cameras*
Advisor: Dr. David Baker

LaQuinton Armbrister

Degree: B.S. in Aviation Science Management
Thesis Title: *Automation in aviation: An advancement or hindrance to aviation safety?*
Advisor: Dr. Yi Qi

Ana Gonzalez

Degree: B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies
Thesis Title: *Classroom Strategies and First-Year Instructors*
Advisor: Dr. Iris Lancaster

Alexis Lowe

Degree: B.S. in Political Science
Thesis Title: *An analysis of institutional within the United States criminal justice system*
Advisor: Dr. Baker/Dr. Walker

Precious Zite Oguonu

Degree: B.S. in Civil Engineering / Computer Science
Thesis Title: *Water quality assessment in Houston with respect to Lead*
Advisor: Dr. Yi Qi

Leslie Pineda

Degree: B.S. in Biology
Thesis Title: *Bioinformatics analysis of the complete mitochondrial genome of the Malay Peacock-Pheasant*
Advisor: Dr. Hector Miranda

Kiya Reeves

Degree: B.S. in Health Studies
Thesis Title: *Holistic health, socioeconomic status, health disparities, and the African American community*
Advisor: Dr. Monica Rasmus

Torye Smith

Degree: B.S. in Biology
Thesis Title: *Evaluation of the effects of Arsenic on human gut cells*
Advisor: Dr. Ayodotun Sodipe

Gabriella Tavera

Degree: B.S. in Biology
Thesis Title: *Evaluation of MYB gene family in breast cancer patient samples*
Advisor: Dr. Ayodotun Sodipe

Raissa Teta

Degree: B.B.A. Management
Thesis Title: *Imports and export trade of Rwanda and the United States*
Advisor: Dr. Mayur Desai

Scholar Highlights:

Honors Scholars in Leadership Roles Across Campus

The Honors College is very proud of all the scholars who competed in the various elections for the 2020-2021 academic year. Congratulations!

Miss TSU 2020-2021

Janai Minga
(Pharmacy)



Mister TSU 2020-2021

Christopher Jones
*(Entertainment Recording
Industry Management)*



Miss Junior 2020-2021

Mariah Campbell
(Journalism)



Mister Junior 2020-2021

Igor Vouffo
(Chemistry)



Call to Alumni: Make Contact with the Honors College

We are continually updating our database of alumni of honors units at Texas Southern University. The database includes information on those past students who have been in the Honors College, Frederick Douglass Honors Program, and other honors activities or units that may have preceded them. If you are one of these alumni, please provide the information to the Honors College by contacting **Mr. Shandon Neal**, at Shandon.Neal@tsu.edu or 713.313.1180 or **Mr. Calvin Chukwuka** at 713.313.6725.

HONORS COLLEGE CORE VALUES

HONESTY, INTEGRITY, COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY AND EXCELLENCE

The Scholar



**Farewell Dr. Thomas F. Freeman
Dean Emeritus**